

REMARKS

The Examiner's Office Action of March 25, 2003 has been received and its contents reviewed. Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the consideration given to the above-identified application and for indicating that claim 3 contains allowable subject matter.

By the above actions, claim 1 has been amended, and new claims 11-13 have been added. Accordingly, claims 1-5, and 11-13 are pending for consideration, of which claim 1 is independent. In view of these actions and the following remarks, reconsideration of this application is now requested.

Referring now to the detailed Office Action, claims 1 and 4-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) anticipated by Yamaguchi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,977,615 – hereafter Yamaguchi). Further, claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Yamaguchi in view of Champagne (U.S. Patent No. 6,075,282).

As amended, claim 1 further recites a second row composed of the second bonding pads is formed between a first row composed of the first bonding pads and a third row composed of the third bonding pads. Support for the amendment of claim 1 can be found at least in, e.g., Fig. 10A.

According to the present invention of amended claim 1, the bonding pads compose three rows, wherein a second row is formed between a first row and a third row. Thereby, the present invention can provide bonding pads having a high density (see for example Fig. 4).

Yamaguchi, on the other hand, discloses inside inner leads (23) and outside inner leads (24) in Fig. 11(a) and (b), for example. Although Yamaguchi does not appear to disclose a specific feature called a bonding pad as recited in Applicants' pending claims, Yamaguchi illustrates in Fig. 10 that the "bonding pad" of the inside inner leads and the of the outside inner leads are substantially formed in one row. In other words, the area where metal leads 31 are connected to the inside inner leads and the outside inner leads are substantially aligned in one row.

Further, as Yamaguchi discloses two types of inner lead (i.e., inside and outside inner leads), which at best may be respectively compared to the first lead and the third lead of the presently claimed invention, Yamaguchi does not discloses an inner lead that corresponds to the second lead of the presently claimed invention. Hence, the two types of inner leads of Yamaguchi cannot correspond to a first lead, a second lead, and a third lead of the presently

claimed invention. In view of the above, Applicants respectfully assert that Yamaguchi does not disclose a second row composed of the second bonding pads is formed between a first row composed of the first bonding pads and a third row composed of the third bonding pads, as recited in amended claim 1 of the present invention.

Consequently, since each and every feature of the present claims is not taught (and is not inherent) in the teachings of Yamaguchi, as is required by MPEP Chapter 2131 in order to establish anticipation, the rejection of claims 1, and 4-5 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), as anticipated by Yamaguchi is improper.

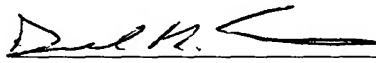
With respect to the §103(a) rejection of claim 2, the above-presented arguments in relation to the §102(b) rejection of independent claim 1 are also applicable to dependent claim 2.

New claims 11-13 have been added to further complete the scope to which Applicants are entitled. Support for claim 11 can be found at least in, e.g., Fig. 10A, and claim 12 in pages 17-18 of the present specification.

In view of the amendments and arguments set forth above, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of all the pending rejections.

While the present application is now believed to be in condition for allowance, should the Examiner find some issue to remain unresolved, or should any new issues arise, which could be eliminated through discussions with Applicants representative, then the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone in order that the further prosecution of this application can thereby be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,



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